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No. 30

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 10, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DENNIS R. REHBERG to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. William J.P. Doubek III, National Chaplain, The American Legion, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Lord God. Holy Scripture teaches us, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." The men and women who serve this great Nation in this House are gifts to us from You. We thank You and praise You for their labor on behalf of these United States.

As they study and debate various issues, illuminate them with wisdom from above. When they make decisions that affect our lives, cause them to be ever mindful of the trust we place in them. Use them to glorify You by bringing peace to our troubled planet.

Please bless each branch of our government. Protect them in their travels. Watch over their families and loved ones in their absence. Supply them with time for rest and renewal. Make us all responsible citizens and neighbors.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURNS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RURAL VETERANS

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for America's veterans and all military per-

sonnel, especially those veterans who live in rural locations throughout the United States.

The 108th Congress is committed to America's veterans. We are providing record funding for veterans programs, including improvements in our veterans health care system.

These funding measures are allowing the Veterans Administration to open community-based outpatient clinics in many areas of our country. A new community-based outpatient clinic is planned for Athens, Georgia, located in Georgia's 12th District. This clinic will provide many needed medical services to groups of proud veterans in Athens and surrounding areas.

We need to ensure that these outpatient clinics are adequately funded and staffed. We need to encourage the establishment of additional clinics in rural areas where they can be beneficial to our population of veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress is committed to those who currently defend this Nation and to those who have served her in the past.

### OUR TRADE DEFICIT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, congratulations to the Bush economic team. Yet another record under their belt. Last Friday, it was the announcement that no private sector jobs had been created in America and that they are presiding over the largest job loss since Herbert Hoover in the 1920s, but today, they are touting their record on trade, a new record, a \$43 billion one month trade deficit, and they say this shows the U.S. economy is recovering.

Why? We are running a large and growing trade deficit. This is recovery at the Bush White House, a jobless recovery because they are engaging in trade practices that are exporting the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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